

FIRST
COMICS
DELUXE SERIES

DEC. \$1.75
NO. 18
\$2.45 CANADA

BADGER



Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Dear Larry:

Just out of curiosity, the videotape that Lionel Brain showed the Badger on page 11 of issue 15 -- was that the original version or the recent Godzilla '85?

I'm assuming it was the one from last year, since it was in color.

Barry Dutler
Scotch Plains, NJ

We can't fool you, Barry. Question is: Did it fool Norbert?

Dear Mike:

What the hell's happening to my ol' buddy, the Badger? I just got done reading #15 a little while ago, and I'm still mighty upset!

First off, Norbert gets suckered by those IBOB jerks, then gets whupped by that shrimp Mr. Kim, then gets punched in the snout by the Wombat, who later has to rescue my main man from getting his face stomped while caught in a net! C'mon! Gimme a break!

If it weren't for the priceless rib-ticking dialogue, I'd have tossed my mint-condition copy into my cat's litter box! If the Badger's gonna start actin' like such a wuss, then you better get him a Badgerang and a utility belt to help him out! But don't expect me to cheer him on anymore! Geez, when a superguy can't even defend himself...

Is nothing sacred?

Mark Haden Frazer
W39700 Sunnyfield Dr.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Dear Badger People:

I really get a kick out of the Badger. I don't have one bad thing to say about the book. I've followed the series from the beginning, and I look forward to following it in the future.

I don't feel that it is fair that Mr. Baron is asked to tone down the violence in the book. After all, it is his responsibility to tell a good story. If he feels violence is necessary, then it should stay in the story.

I don't feel violence is learned from the media (i.e. television, movies, or comic books). Violence is learned from the people one associates with. If a boy watches his father beat up his mother, then he grows up thinking all fathers beat up all mothers, and it is an accepted way of life.

As long as there is a clear line of right and wrong, then the reader can differentiate the aspect of violence. Most people aren't going to read a story and feel it is reasonable to go out and start breaking heads. They can see that the violence in the story is just part of the plot, and not an open invitation by the writer to act violent.

If we're to believe that violence is evil

and to be avoided at all costs, then we will just set ourselves up to be victims to those who don't feel that way. Rather we should train our minds and bodies to be able to deal with violence if confronted with it, and hope we don't ever have to use that training.

B. Johnson
930 Palmbrook #11
Redlands, CA 92372

In real life, one cannot always clearly "differentiate between right and wrong," and I like to think Mike Baron tells realistic stories. Also keep in mind that the Badger frequently appears to be insane, and the textbook definition of insanity is "the inability to judge right from wrong." Sometimes he beats up the wrong guy.

Hopefully, the readers learn as much from that as when the Badger whumps the "bad guys."



Dear Larry:

How about that coloring job done on Badger #15? It was terrific! I've never seen it in any comic before, and I really think it enhances the already good art and paper quality.

I am also pleased with the return of the Badger's camouflage uniform. The red and blue one makes him look like a superhero, when he is more of a vigilante type. Also I like the Wombat. He is almost better than the Woodchuck. Sorry, Badger.

Raphe Chell
1157 Arcadia St.
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Thanks should go to our regular colorist, Linda Lessmann, and ace production manager Rick Taylor, both of whom went above and beyond the

call of duty to produce First's one and only "painted" issue of *Badger*. Without going into technical details, this method allows a much wider palette of colors, as opposed to the regular "flat color" technique normally used on *Badger*. If you like the look, check out any issue of *Nexus*, *Elric*, *Hawkmoon*, *Shatter*, *Dreadstar*, and, starting next month, *Corum*. They all utilize the full painted color method.



NEXT MONTH: Badger must battle the living incarnation of his own most psychotic personality. But luckily he gets some help from a new friend with three legs, a big snout, and an appetite for truffles. "Senator," by Mike Baron, Bill Reinhold, and Rick Bryant. Plus: a new back-up series! Well, almost new. Hardly used, anyway. Only one previous owner. Come on down! You'll love it.

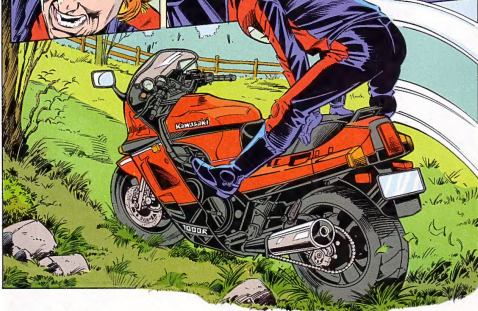
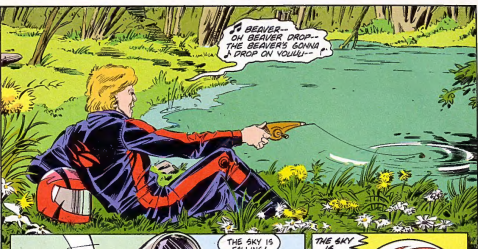
Rick Obadiah, Publisher

Rick Oliver, Editorial Director
Laurel Fitch, Editorial Coordinator
Alex Wald, Art Director
Rick Taylor, Production Manager

Ralph C. Muscant,
Financial Director
Kathy Kotsivas,
Operations Director
Kurt Golding, Sales Director

THE BADGER™ Vol. 1, No. 18, December, 1986. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published monthly. Copyright ©1986 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: \$1.75 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: \$21.00 in the U.S., \$25.00 in Canada, and \$40.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual person, living or dead, without salient content, are intended or should be inferred. Eulogy for Fred the Wonder Guppy will be given by Charlie the Tuba. The Badger, Zoomtown and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Chicago, IL 60607. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Badger*, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.

**A FIRST COMICS
PUBLISHING PRODUCTION**



BEAVER drop



BADGER

mike baron
script

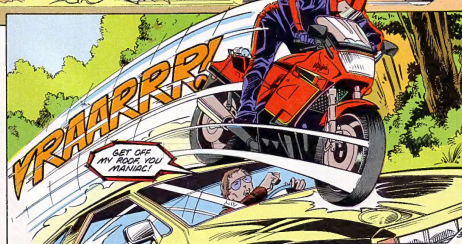
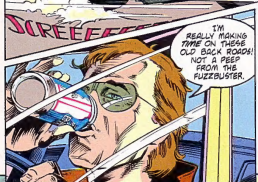
bill reinhold
pencils

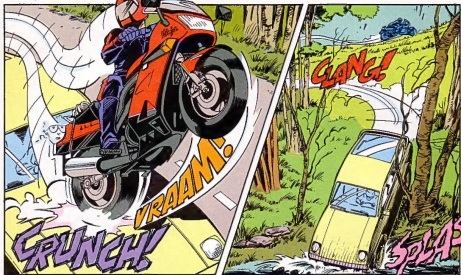
rick bryant
inks

willie schubert
letters

linda lessmann
colors

rick oliver
edits







AND AGAIN!

GREAT ZOT!



EXCUSE ME, SIR--YOU DROPPED THIS!

BADGER!



ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND!

YES!

THAT'S SPUD GROGAN--PRESIDENT OF GROGAN RURS! WHY DID YOU ATTACK HIM?

HE STARTED IT! HE HIT ME IN THE HEAD WITH A BEER CAN!

YOU CRAZY SON OF A BITCH! IF YOU MAKE ME LOSE THIS RACE--!



SPUD, C'MERE. I GOTTA TALK TO YA...

I WAS WAY AHEAD WHEN THAT LOONEY TUNE CAME OUT OF THE WOODWORK. HE'S CRAZY!

SPUD THAT'S THE BADGER. HE REALLY IS CRAZY. DON'T MESS WITH HIM.



WHERE'S MY GLIMP? I'M GOING TO SHOOT THE SON OF A BITCH!

NO, SPUD NO. WE'RE TAKING ENOUGH CHANCES JUST RUNNING THIS RALLY. YOU'RE NOT SHOOTING ANYONE.

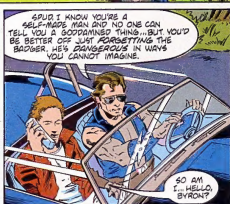
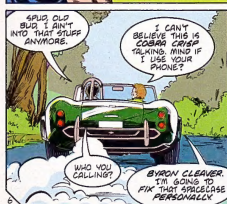
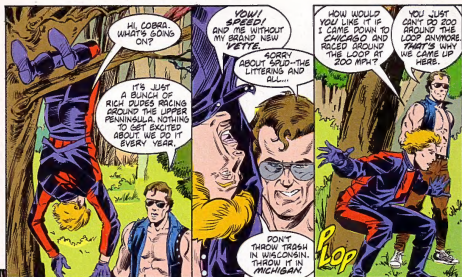
CHRIST! LOOK AT MY PORSCHE! HE WRECKED IT!



SPUD--GO ON UP TO MY CAR AND WAIT FOR ME. I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE INTO HURLEY. YOU CAN RENT A CAR THERE.

I DON'T WANT A GODDAMN CHEVY! I WANT MY PORSCHE!

GO ON.



DOWN THE ROAD A PIECE.

MELDRUM, WE GOT GRINKS AND GROINKS JUST A-WHIPPIN' THROUGH THE WOODS WITHOUT REGARD FOR TRANS-ASPHALT MIGRATION.

BE A DAMN SHAME IF THEY WAS TO RUN INTO A COW OR SOMETHING.

MELDRUM, ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING IN YOUR INSCRUTABLE MYSTIC EARTH-WARRIOR MANNER?

NO I AINT, MAN. I'M JUST RAMBLING.

NO, MELDRUM, I SENSE SOME DEEPER MEANING... "IF THEY WAS TO RUN INTO A COW OR SOMETHING..." WHAT COULD IT MEAN?

SIMME A HINT.

NO, MAN LIKE, ALL I MEANT WAS, YOU HIT A COW AT 100 MPH, YOU'RE LOOKING AT A LOT OF GROUND BEEF.

OH GOD, MELDRUM! THESE PARABLES OF YOURS ARE SO DEEP--SO DISTURBING! WILL I NEVER GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THEM?

NO, MAN...IT'S LIKE...IT'S LIKE...CATCH ANYTHING?

NO, MAN, LOOK AT THIS--A GENUINE POPIEL POCKET FISHERMAN. I SHOULD BE KNEE-DEEP IN TROUT BY NOW.

YOU USIN' THE RIGHT BAIT?

IT AIN'T THE BAIT--IT'S THE HUMIDITY. GONNA MOVE OVER TO FLAMBEAU FLOWAGE THEY GOT TROUT UP THE SNOUT.

DNR'S DROPPING BEAVERS OVER THE FLAMBEAU.

A BEAVER DROP?

THAT'S RIGHT!

WHERE'D THEY GET THE BEAVERS?

WYOMING. WE GAVE THEM SOME EAGLES. I'M GOING TO STAY UP HERE UNTIL I SEE THOSE BEAVERS DIVE.

BUZZ BUZZ

THIS BUG IS IN LOVE WITH MY LURE.

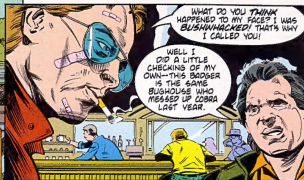
IT'S LIKE, LURID, MAN.

HURLEY, WISCONSIN. NINE P.M.



GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT, CLEAVER.

ANYTHING FOR A BUCK, SPUDS? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?



WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO MY FACE? I WAS BUSHWHACKED! THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU!

WELL I DID A LITTLE CHECKING OF MY OWN--THIS BADGER IS THE SAME BUSHWHACKER WHO MESSED UP COBRA LAST YEAR.

I DUNNO... HE'S PSYCHO OR SOMETHING. GUY DOESN'T FEEL PAIN.

HE'LL FEEL PAIN WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HIM.

I WANT HIM OFF PLANET.

THAT'S A LITTLE DRASTIC, ISN'T IT?



HE'S GOT TO GO. AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP.

MAYBE.



FIVE BIG ONES, CLEAVER.

AND A BEAVER HAT. I ALWAYS WANTED A BEAVER HAT.

DAMN! BEAVERS ARE HARD TO GET THESE DAYS...

OKAY.

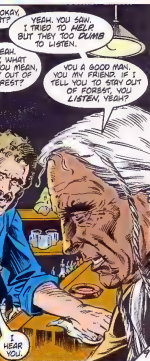
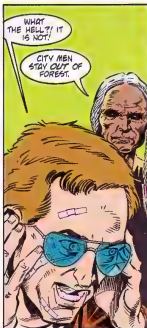
WHAT'D YOU HAVE IN MIND?

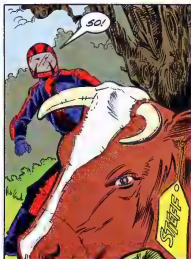
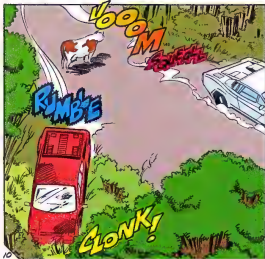
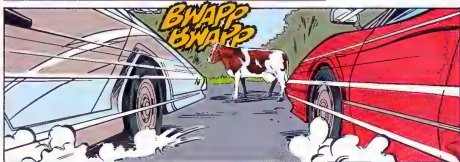


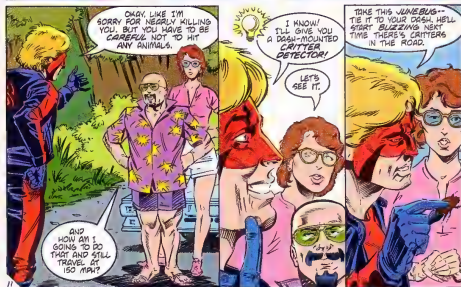
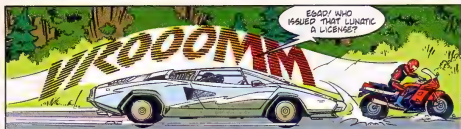
HE SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH TO FIND WITH THAT BIG BIKE--AND ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS GOT TWO-WAYS. WE'LL CATCH HIM ALONE, TAKE HIM INTO THE WOODS...AND LOSE HIM.

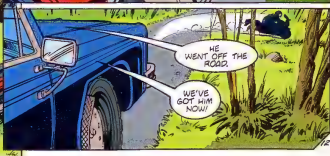
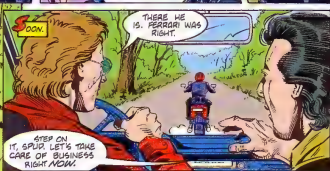
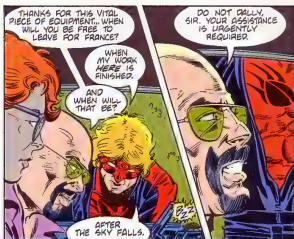
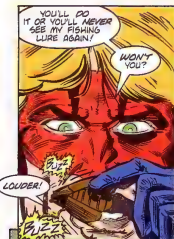
I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT THIS GUY'S GOT, THAT HE CAN GIVE YOU AND COBRA THE RUN-AROUND.

CITY MAN.











LOOK.

HE
HEADED
INTO
THE
FLOWGE.



PERFECT.
YOU CAN'T SEE
THE ROAD FROM
HERE.

SNAP!

LET'S
SPLIT UP!

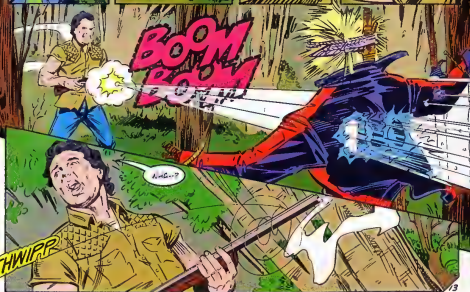


SOON.

SPUD'S
TAKING THIS
GUY MUCH TOO
SERIOUSLY. HE'S
JUST A LOCAL
YOKEL.



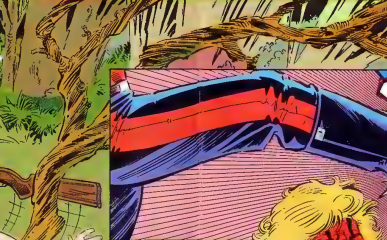
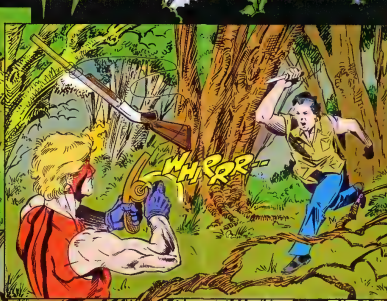
AND HIS
LUCK
JUST RAN
OUT.



BOOM
BOOM

Another?

THWIPP











WHOOPS! GUESS YOU GUYS WON'T BE DANCING FOR A WHILE! NOW DON'T GO BEIN' A BURDEN ON THE TAXPAYERS!

USING CANVAS FROM THE PARACHUTES, BADGER FASTENS BANDAGES AND TOURNIQUETS.

'CAUSE I'M A NICE GUY, THAT'S WHY!

COME ON, HILDEGAARD-- LET'S FLAG DOWN A RIDE!

YOU FIEND! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH DAISYP?

YOU IDIOT! SHE'S ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION TO FRANCE!

YOU TROGLODYTE! WHAT'S IN FRANCE?

TRUFFLES, YOU DEMENTED BANDICOOT!

WOULD YOU PLEASE REMOVE THIS BEAVER FROM MY LAP? I'M TRYING TO DRIVE.

LARRY, MOST MEN WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE A BEAVER IN THEIR LAP!

ENOUGH, SIR!

I'M SORRY, HILDEGAARD. I'LL TAKE YOU FOR A RIDE LATER.

NEXT ISSUE:

SCOTT

Zoomtown™

BARON
WRITER
SCHUBERT
LETTERER

BRASFIELD
PENCILLER
FEDUNIEWICZ
COLORIST

THOMAS
INKER
OLIVER
EXECUTIONER

GEAR TO TIM--WE
WILL INVADE ZOOMTOWN WHILE
YOU ATTACK THE ROAD PHAROS
COMPLEX. GOT IT?

RIGHT, BROTHER!
WE CAN'T LET A BUNCH
OF BROODS KICK US
OUT OF OUR OWN
COLLECTIVES!

AND USE THE
FORM GUNS! WE DON'T
WANT TO HURT
ANYONE!

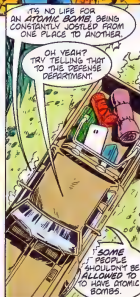
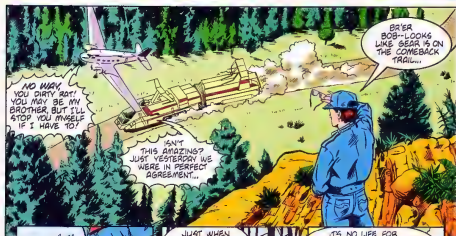
WE DON'T?
@#@#%
BROODS! I'LL
TEACH 'EM TO
KICK ME OUT
OF MY OWN
COMMUNE...

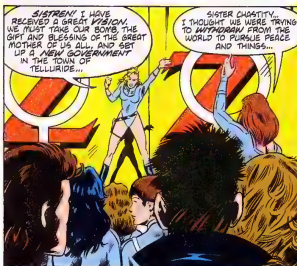
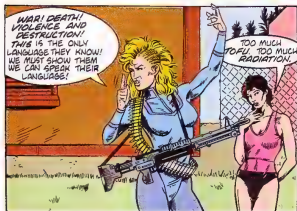
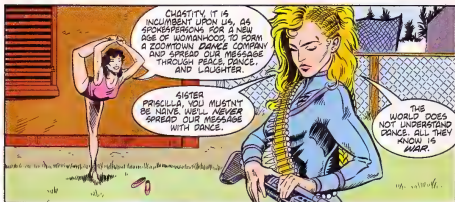
AND KEEP AN EYE
ON THE OIL PRESSURE! THE
ZOOMER IS A DELICATE
INSTRUMENT.

DON'T
WORRY! I KNOW
MACHINERY.

HEY! DIDN'T
YOU HEAR WHAT I
JUST SAID?

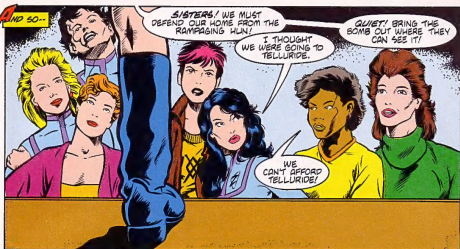
I HEARD!
YOU'VE BEEN
TELLING ME WHAT TO
DO EVER SINCE WE WERE
KIDS! I CAN SETTLE MY
OWN HASH, THANKS!







AND SO--

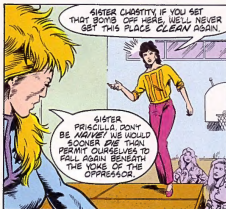


SISTERS! WE MUST DEFEND OUR HOME FROM THE RAMPAGING HUN!

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO TELLURIDE.

QUIET! BRING THE BOMB OUT WHERE THEY CAN SEE IT!

WE CAN'T AFFORD TELLURIDE!



SISTER CHASTITY IF YOU SET THAT BOMB OFF HERE, WE'LL NEVER GET THIS PLACE CLEAN AGAIN.

SISTER PRISCILLA, DON'T BE NAÏVE! WE WOULD SOONER DIE THAN PERMIT OURSELVES TO FALL AGAIN BENEATH THE YOKE OF THE OPPRESSOR.



WHAT THE HECK-- HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING HORMONE INJECTIONS? YOU'VE BECOME WORSE THAN THEM!

SO! WIMPING OUT ON US, EH? I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!

I CAN SMELL THE CIGARETTE SMOKE ON YOUR CLOTHES!



DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT! YOU'RE GOING TO GET US ALL KILLED!

YOU DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO LIVE FREE!

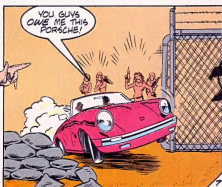
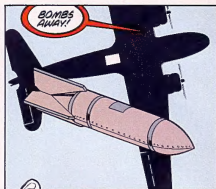
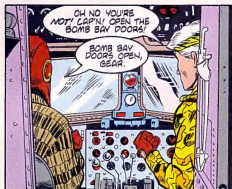


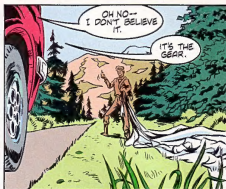
YES I DO! SO LONG, SISTER. I'M OUTTA HERE!



OH? HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO? THE MALE GEEKS HAVE GOT THE ONLY ROAD BLOCKED!

THIS IS THE ALAMO, PRISCILLA!





EPILOGUE

